

SUPPLEMENTAL AMENDMENTS FOR SEMICONDUCTOR MANUFACTURING

FACT SHEET

TODAY'S ACTION

- On March 27, 2008 the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) proposed supplemental amendments to an earlier Agency proposal to amend the emissions standards for hazardous air pollutants from the manufacture of semiconductors.
- The semiconductor manufacturing industry is a subset of the electronics manufacturing industry, and produces integrated circuits or "chips." Integrated circuits combine the functions of discrete electronic devices in a miniature device that can perform complicated electronic functions in a fraction of a second. The electronics manufacturing industry produces devices such as computers, appliances, radios, CD players, and other finished goods that incorporate these integrated circuits.
- EPA published a national rule to limit emissions of toxic air pollutants from these operations in 2003. That action is one of 96 rules EPA has issued since 1990 requiring 174 industry sectors to eliminate 1.7 million tons per year of toxic air pollutants.
- On October 19, 2006, EPA proposed amendments to the 2003 rule to add separate process vent definitions for organic, inorganic, and combined air toxics process vent streams, and to add emissions control requirements for combined air toxics process vents at new sources. In this 2006 proposal, EPA did not include requirements for the control of emissions from combined process vents at existing facilities.
- Today's supplemental amendments propose changes to the October 19, 2006 amendments by requiring existing combined hazardous air pollutant (HAP) process vents to achieve a control level of 14.22 parts per million by volume (ppmv), which is the average level of emissions control achieved by the best performing four combined HAP process vents at maximum representative operating conditions.
- In addition, we are also proposing that new combined HAP process vents also achieve the same control level of 14.22 ppmv.
- These supplemental amendments will not affect the estimated \$22,700 in annual capital costs to implement the 2003 final rule.
- EPA will accept comment on this proposed action for 45 days after it is published in the Federal Register.

BACKGROUND

- The Clean Air Act requires EPA to regulate emissions of 187 listed toxic air pollutants. For major sources (those with the potential to emit 10 tons annually or more of a listed pollutant or 25 tons or more of a combination of pollutants), the law requires EPA to develop standards requiring the application of stringent air pollution controls. Those standards are known as “MACT standards,” because they require the application of maximum achievable control technology, or MACT.

FOR MORE INFORMATION

- To download the rule from EPA's World Wide Web site, go to the following address:
<http://www.epa.gov/ttn/oarpg/new.html>.
- Today’s proposed amendments and other background information are also available either electronically at <http://www.regulations.gov>, EPA’s electronic public docket and comment system, or in hardcopy at the EPA Docket Center’s Public Reading Room.
 - The Public Reading Room is located in the EPA Headquarters, Room Number 3334 in the EPA West Building, located at 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC. Hours of operation are 8:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. eastern standard time, Monday through Friday, excluding Federal holidays.
 - Visitors are required to show photographic identification, pass through a metal detector, and sign the EPA visitor log. All visitor materials will be processed through an X-ray machine as well. Visitors will be provided a badge that must be visible at all times.
 - Materials for this proposed action can be accessed using Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0086.
- HOW TO COMMENT: Comments should be identified by Docket ID No. EPA-HQ-OAR-2002-0086 and submitted by one of the following methods:
 - Federal eRulemaking Portal (<http://www.regulations.gov>)
 - E-mail (a-and-r-docket@epa.gov)
 - Mail (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Mail code 6102T, 1200 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW, Washington, DC 20460), or
 - Hand delivery (EPA Docket Center, Environmental Protection Agency, Room 3334, 1301 Constitution Avenue, NW, Washington, DC).
- For more information about today’s rule, contact John Schaefer of EPA's Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards at (919) 541-0296.